AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising ~~an amino acid sequence encoded by the first nucleotide sequence in claim 1~~ amino acids 22-400 of SEQ ID NO:4.

12. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide consists ~~consisting~~ of ~~an amino acid sequence encoded by the first nucleotide sequence in claim 1~~ amino acids 22-400 of SEQ ID NO:4.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~encoded by the first nucleotide sequence in claim 6~~ of SEQ ID NO:4.

15. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide consists ~~consisting~~ of ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~encoded by the first nucleotide sequence in claim 6~~ of SEQ ID NO:4.

16-18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn) A method for identifying an agent that can modulate the expression of a ~~polynucleotide~~ polypeptide of claim [[1]] 11, the method comprising the steps of:

~~exposing a cell that comprises a polynucleotide of claim 1 under the control of its native promoter;~~

measuring the expression of ~~the polynucleotide~~ a polypeptide of claim 11 in a group of cells that are exposed to a test agent ~~the cell~~; and

comparing the expression to that in a group of control ~~cell that is~~ cells that are not exposed to the test agent, wherein a higher or lower than the expression in the control group of cells ~~cell~~ indicates that the agent can modulate the expression of the ~~polynucleotide~~ polypeptide.

20-22. (canceled)

23. (withdrawn) A method for diagnosing [[a]] liver cancer or liver preneoplastic development in ~~a tissue or organ of~~ a human subject ~~or non-human animal~~, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring the expression of a ~~polynucleotide of claim 1~~ polypeptide of claim 11 in liver cells ~~of the tissue or organ~~ obtained from a region in the liver suspected of cancer or preneoplastic development; and

comparing the expression of the ~~polynucleotide~~ polypeptide to a normal standard wherein a higher than normal expression indicates cancer or preneoplastic development ~~in the tissue or organ~~ in the suspect region.

24-27. (canceled)

28. (withdrawn) A method for identifying a human subject ~~or non-human animal~~ as a candidate for further screening for cancer or preneoplastic development in the liver ~~a tissue or organ~~, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the level of a polypeptide of claim 11 in a blood or blood-derived sample from the subject ~~animal~~;

comparing the level to a normal range established by the same subject ~~animal~~ during a ~~period that is~~ liver tumor-free peirod ~~in the tissue or organ~~, or by a plurality of humans who ~~animals of the same species that~~ are liver tumor-free ~~in the tissue or organ~~; and

identifying the subject ~~animal~~ as a candidate for further cancer screening when the level exceeds the established normal range.

29-30. (canceled)

31. (withdrawn) A method for identifying a human subject ~~or non-human animal~~ as a candidate for further screening for cancer or preneoplastic development in the liver ~~a tissue or organ~~, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the level of an antibody to a polypeptide of claim 11 in a blood or blood-derived sample from the subject ~~animal~~;

comparing the level to a normal range established by the same subject ~~animal~~ during a ~~period that is~~ liver tumor-free period ~~in the tissue or organ~~, or by a plurality of humans who ~~animals of the same species that~~ are liver tumor-free ~~in the tissue or organ~~; and

identifying the subject ~~animal~~ as a candidate for further cancer screening when the level exceeds the established normal range.

32-39. (canceled)